

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced today more than \$2 million in Federal funding for 4 key Del Rio & Eagle Pass projects in the FY 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD), Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS), and Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bills.

"As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am working to secure funding for Del Rio and Eagle Pass projects, including the development of a border law enforcement training center, building needed transportation infrastructure, and the expansion of community services," said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez. "This is just the first step in the funding process for these important initiatives and we still have a long way to go before these funding bills are sent to the President for his final approval, but I would say that this is a very positive first step."

Within the THUD, LHHS, and CJS Appropriations bills, Congressman Rodriguez secured funding for 4 key projects in Del Rio:

- **\$1 million for roadway construction in Del Rio**, to complete a two-lane paved road connecting Highway 90 to Amistad Lake, including a National Parks Service (NPS) boat ramp and a Homeland Security (DHS) boat ramp at Box Canyon;
- **\$600,000 to build a border law enforcement training center in Eagle Pass**, providing regional, nation, and international public safety training for law enforcement to address homeland security national preparedness goals;
- **\$350,000 for at risk youth programs through Baptist Child and Family Services**, who work with families on or near the border (including Val Verde, Bexar, Kinney, Sutton, Crockett counties) through their Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) program. The program provides intensive counseling services to youth in at-risk situations and their families with the goal of reducing family conflicts, child abuse, and preventing problems of truancy and delinquent behaviors before they enter the juvenile justice system;
- **\$100,000 for family literacy and education programs through AVANCE, Inc. in Del Rio**, specifically funding the Parent Child Education program which serves families with children up to four years of age. The Parent Child Education program improves community education levels through a curriculum of early childhood development, parent and adult literacy,

marriage strengthening, and by teaching parents to be the first and most important teachers of their children.

The FY 2008 THUD, LHHS, and CJS Appropriations bills must still be approved by the full House and will then proceed through a Conference Committee with the Senate before it can be sent to the President.

Congressman Rodriguez is a Member of the House Appropriations Committee.